

She earned a Masters of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 and continued on as a distinguished graduate from military and health programs such as Health Services Administration, Squadron Officer School, Contingency Wartime Planning, and Joint Medical Planning. She also attended programs such as the Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and Interagency Institute for Healthcare Executives at George Washington University.

Throughout her career, Colonel Ebling enhanced medical services in the U.S. military by working in numerous positions of medical services, support, management, operations, and planning. She is currently the Director of Medical Readiness for the Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters United States Air Force at Bolling Air Force Base and the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Prior to serving with the Air Staff, she worked as Commander of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from 2004 through 2006. During this assignment, she also served as Commander to 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron and Administrator to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, deploying to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Prior to entering the Air Force, Colonel Ebling engaged in clinical practice as a Certified Physician Assistant from 1977–1986, working in Family Medicine Clinics in rural Pennsylvania, Industrial Medicine at the United States Steel Corporation, and Internal Medicine Services at the University of Pittsburgh. She also volunteered for medical mission work in rural areas of Haiti during 1984 and 1985. In 1986, Colonel Ebling received a direct commission to the Air Force as a Medical Service Corps Officer. She has served at Air Staff, MAJCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, and in various chief administrative and operational assignments, including AFSOC, AFMOA, 16th Operations Group, and joint special operations.

To recognize Colonel Ebling's extensive experience and powerful influence on medical support to the United States Air Force, she has received numerous awards. She is the recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), the Air Force Achievement Medal (2 OLC), and the Air Force Commendation Medal. She is also the recipient of the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (OLC), Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air & Space Campaign Medal, and Iraqi Campaign Medal. She is also a member of Delta Omega, Omicron Chapter, a national society of academic excellence and leadership in public health, and was inducted into Thiel College's Athletic Hall of Fame. Due to her profound commitment and hard work, the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) recognized her as the Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1988. She also earned the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) Commitment to Service Award in 1999, and the Air Combat Command (ACC) Commitment to Service Award in 2001.

Madam Speaker, COL Linda Ebling is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to the medical support and operations our brave men and women need out on the battlefield and when they return home. I am sure that I join many others in applauding

her significant contribution to the Air Force Medical Services throughout her 22-year career.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 106-392 TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today that will extend authorization of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin fish recovery programs. I am pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives MARK UDALL, JOHN SALAZAR, JIM MATHESON, MARILYN MUSGRAVE, DIANA DEGETTE, and HEATHER WILSON.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program were established under cooperative agreements as multiagency partnerships in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

This bill will allow the continuation of two already very successful programs. Established in 1988 and 1992, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are run as partnerships between water users. These partners include the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Western Area Power Administration; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Jicarilla Apache Nation; Navajo Nation; environmental organizations; water users; and power customers. The cooperation and compromise that emerges from the union of such diverse parties has been key to the past success of these programs, and to the preservation of western fish species.

State, tribal, and community partnerships have allowed these fish recovery programs to succeed without compromising the rights and wellbeing of surrounding communities and water users. Recovery programs have actually helped 1,600 Federal, tribal, and non-Federal water projects meet Endangered Species Act, ESA, compliance in their consumption of three million acre-feet of San Juan and Colorado River basin water per year. Passage of this bill would help ensure the recovery of endangered fish and the continued compliance of water users to ESA standards. Water and fish habitat, so scarce in the arid West, can only properly be managed through the kind of cooperation and coordination that is made possible by the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act.

Upper Colorado and San Juan River basin recovery programs focus on four fish species, including humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. Successful restoration projects have included the construction of fish passages, fish screens, hatcheries, flood plain and instream habitat, and even a reservoir to provide flow augmentation.

These facilities, costing approximately \$100 million to date, will require rehabilitation and replacement into the future as the natural impact of floods and debris wears on them. Extended authorization and increased funding, as included in this bill, will allow for continued upkeep of these facilities, and completion of other habitat preservation projects.

With bills such as this, we are clearing a sound path for addressing our future water scarcity issues. Through the programs authorized in this bill, western water users are able to gain access to this vital resource while not compromising the habitat and survival of the species who share that water.

HONORING SEAN CHARLES DOBBINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Charles Dobbins of Kansas City, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Charles Dobbins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHN "JACK" PATRICK GILLESPIE

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of the late Jack Gillespie. This American, immigrant, veteran, and patriot passed away on April 17th, 2008. Today would have been his 87th birthday and, in his honor, I would like to submit for the record the eulogy his son Ed read at his funeral on April 22nd of this year.

In November 1929, young John Patrick Gillespie—called Sean at the time—left his home by the Eanybeg stream at the base of Carnaween Mountain to head into Donegal Town with his mother and brothers and sisters.

He was beginning a journey to a new life in a wonderful place where he would find happiness, achieve glory, and eventually discover waiting for him there the woman he was meant to be one with.

By the time he came to be called "Jack" in his new country, he had figured out what success in America required.

He may have read some tips on board the *Lititia*, the steamer on which he spent two